



# GriffinGram

SEA CONTROL SQUADRON THIRTY EIGHT

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## A WORD FROM THE CO

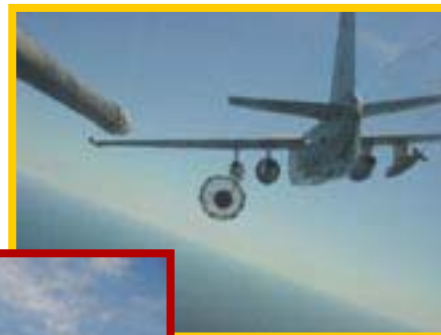
Greetings, Griffin Families and friends! Welcome to another addition of the Griffin Gram. This past month proved to be very productive. I continue to be utterly impressed by the professionalism and selfless dedication by every Red Griffin as we have arrived at the *Tip of The Spear*.

The month began with some much deserved liberty in the Kingdom of Bahrain. Since the weighing anchor, the Red Griffins and the rest of Broadsword team (Carrier Air Wing TWO) continue to train and refine our war fighting skills on America's flagship, the USS CONSTELLATION. I am truly amazed at the potency of our very capable ship and air wing team. As I look over the past 15 months, I am filled with a great sense of pride and satisfaction knowing how much we have accomplished. I have never seen aircraft in better material condition with the finest sensors and weapon systems. There is no doubt in my mind that the Red Griffins are ready for whatever national tasking comes our way. We may not know the day or the hour, but we are ready to answer the call when it comes. Throughout my Navy career I have taken pleasure in knowing that the mere presence of our awesome firepower has deterred conflict, bringing stability wherever I have sailed. I am equally proud in knowing that when the time comes to go to battle our Navy is ready to defend our country, defend freedom, and protect the world from ruthless dictators. The men and women of our armed services serve with courage and honor. I am honored to be counted among these Americans. However, I contend that our true heroes are our families whose courageous and brave support enables us to excel in peacetime or combat. I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to all the wives (Roses of Steel), children, parents, brothers, sisters, girlfriends, and extended family members. We draw from your strength and support every day. A also wish to convey a special thanks to our Ombudsman, Michele Klees for her selfless dedication in serving our families.

As you probably already know, I cannot tell you when we will return. My hope is that we would return on time. If we are unable to return on time, we will return as soon as our very important work is completed. The men of VS-38, your husbands, sons, and fathers are a constant inspiration to me. Recently, I had the chance to meet with the entire squadron in small groups during an event called "*Captains Call*". This is a forum where the commanding officer is afforded the opportunity to meet the squadron in small groups by rank to discuss issues and answer questions by all hands. With Master Chief's Thompson's help, I was able to field some very important questions and discuss the issues that we all share. I was completely impressed by everyone's commitment to the task at hand. We all realize we are part of something so very important to our great nation's history as we fight the war on terrorism.

In closing I want to remind all of you not to ask questions concerning specific operational matters or schedule. Operational security is key to bringing us safely home. Thanks for understanding.

CDR S. J. Kelly



## CMC'S CORNER

Greetings from the Fighting Red Griffins CMC. All is well at the "tip of the sphere" in the war on terrorism. The Griffins stand ready during these times of uncertainty in the world. Spirits are high as we anticipate what tomorrow may bring.

Through all of this, our thoughts and prayers continue to go out to our families and loved ones. We understand the burdens you bear in our absence. The Griffin "team" could not be what it is today without all your unselfish contributions. Thank you!

I would like to recognize our Sailors of the month for February 2003. The Senior Sailor of the Month is AM1 (AW) Januario T. Dizon, Junior Sailor of the Month is AT3 John C. Semas, and Plane Captain of the Month is AN Bernard David. Congratulations!!!

Here is some great information to pass along to our Griffin family and friends. The long awaited VS-38 website is online after a complete renovation of the site thanks to LT Hartley Postlethwaite and AME2 (AW) Scott Oram. The website contains unlimited information on the history of the squadron, the chain of command, ombudsman point of contact, and provides recent pictures of squadron personnel during this and previous deployments. The website address is <http://www.navy.mil/homepages/vs38>.

CMDCM (SW) Chris Thompson

The GriffinGram is an official publication of Sea Control Squadron 38, but does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the United States Navy.

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